

~~SECRET~~

5384

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED
1998

25 February 1972

MEMORANDUM

Preparations for the Moscow Round of the US/
Soviet Maritime Talks

1. The two topics that have received the most attention in efforts to tighten the US's negotiating position since 4 February, when the Washington round of current US Soviet maritime talks ended, have been port access and national flag cargo carriage. Within the topic of port access interest has centered on the need to reduce the time interval for advance submission of crew member visas and crew lists and on means for opening additional Soviet ports to calls by US ships.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

2. To justify the opening of additional Soviet ports to calls by US ships, attempts are underway to prove that various closed ports such as Vladivostok, Nikolayev, and Liepaya have previously been visited by Free World ships. The Navy's Ocean Surveillance Information Center at Suitland is currently making a computer run for this purpose at the Agency's behest. We doubt that it will prove the case.

3. Efforts on the topic of national flag cargo carriage have largely involved discussions between the Department of State and the Maritime Administration who have had difficulty in reaching a mutually agreeable stand. Marad has been seeking a solution that would result in the sharing of US/Soviet seaborne trade by ships of those countries with no acknowledgement of the right of third party ships to participation; State's emphasis, reflected in the new working papers, is on the maintenance of parity between the volumes of cargo carried by US and Soviet ships while a residual amount of cargo is left for

~~SECRET~~

third party ships.

4. The remaining three topic headings, "Northern Sea Route", "Facilitation of Continental Shelf Research", and "Exchanges of Information and Persons", have raised little controversy since completion of the Washington round of talks. CIA has been called in to assist in tightening up language on the exchange of nautical charts and its efforts to investigate the extent of Soviet cooperation in making publications of the Ministry of the Maritime Fleet on shipping and related topics available to the US may lead to the abandonment of attempts to include this aspect of the exchange issue in plans for future negotiations.

5. Questions on which the Agency is likely to be asked for a position at the 26 February USC meeting are the advance interval required for submission of crew visas or lists and the desirability of continuing to ask for an exchange of shipping publications (as opposed to navigation charts).

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Although Department of State Publication Procurement Officers continue to have difficulty in obtaining publications on technical and economic aspects of shipping in the USSR, a recent check at the Library of Congress indicates that most of the publications of the Soviet Ministry of the Maritime Fleet on shipping unavailable to the PPO's have been acquired by the Library on the basis of its exchange agreement with the Lenin Library in the USSR. For this reason, OER feels that the language in paragraph 2 of the draft note on charts and publications is no longer an appropriate topic for the negotiations. It should be noted that this topic is not included in paragraph 19 on page 11 of the 24 February USC Memorandum for the President.